

REMARKS

In the patent application, claims 1-20 are pending. In the office action, claims 1-10 are allowed, claims 11-15 are rejected and claims 16-20 are objected to but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Applicant has amended claim 16 to place claims 16-20 in condition for allowance. Applicant has also amended claim 11 to include the limitation that the estimated scaling factor is determined based on the quality-size relationship and image statistics inherent to the input image. The support for the amendment can be found in claim 15, which is now canceled.

No new matter has been introduced.

At section 1, claims 11-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Cornog et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 6,330,369, hereafter referred to as *Cornog*) in view of *Sprague* (U.S. Patent No. 5,699,458).

In rejecting claims 11-15, the Examiner states that *Cornog* discloses a method of modifying a quantization table (Figure 1, element 44, col.4, lines 59-60) for reducing the size of a compressed input image (Figure 1, element 20). The Examiner admits that *Cornog* does not specifically disclose scaling the non-zero coefficients, but points to *Sprague* for disclosing non-zero coefficients.

It is respectfully submitted that *Cornog* discloses in Figure 2 a method of image data compression using a quantization table 44 which is modified by a scaling factor 54 based on the compressed image size 36 and other limiting factors such as target data rate 42 and user-defined limit factor 40. In particular, *Cornog* discloses that the scaling module 52 multiplies the values in the initial quantization table 50 by the scale factor 54 to produce the modified quantization table 44 (col.5, lines 8-10). However, *Cornog* does not disclose that the scaling factor is a quality scaling factor estimated based on the quality-size relationship and the image statistics inherent to the input image as claimed in claim 11.

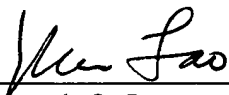
Thus, claim 11 is clearly distinguishable over *Cornog* and *Sprague*.

As for claims 12-15, they are dependent from claim 11 and recite features not recited in claim 11. For reason regarding claim 11 above, it is respectfully submitted that claims 12-15 are also distinguishable over the cited *Cornog* and *Sprague* references.

CONCLUSION

Claims 1-10 have been allowed. Claims 16-20 has been amended to overcome the objection. Claims 11-15, as amended, are distinguishable over the cited references. Early allowance of all pending claims is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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